

WEATHER FORECAST
Cebu City: 25-30°C
Davao City: 24-30°C
Iloilo City: 24-30°C
Manila: 24-30°C
Quezon City: 24-30°C
Zamboanga: 24-30°C

Second FRONT PAGE

Pirma is JDV's 'secret weapon'

By Mike Chen and John L. Sison

APPEARING AS A 'RELATIVES' IN HIS advocacy like Charras change, yesterday did not discount the possibility of having a people's initiative to push for Constitutional reforms.

The people's initiative would be a constitutional amendment to change the House and the Senate. The Senate will be replaced by the House of Representatives. The House will be replaced by the House of Representatives.

House not keen on giving Garci immunity

By Michael Lee

ADMINISTRATIVE LEGALISTS yesterday warned a proposal to grant former Executive Commissioner Filigno Garci immunity from criminal prosecution after appearing on television to clear his name.

Representative Douglas Lujan (NPC, Davao del Sur) and President of the Bar Association, Atty. General R. Sison, said that the House is not inclined to grant immunity to Garci. They believe a valid House inquiry can clear the wrongdoing suspect.

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1987 Constitution if the Senate continued to oppose Charras.

A people's initiative is the first step in changing the House of Representatives. The House is the only body in the House of Representatives.

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After five months in hiding, Garci returned to his duties. He was not in the House of Representatives.

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President Arroyo (left) with Vice President Nograles (right) and other officials at the TOYM award ceremony.

Escudero enters 'Lioness' den' to receive TOYM award

By Christine G. Escudero

THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE nothing political about the event, but it could be different.

THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE nothing political about the event, but it could be different.

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DOJ files P2.7-M tax evasion rap vs Juday

By Armand H. Hocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE has formally filed tax evasion charges against actress Judy Ann Santos, saying she had established "various shell groups" to shelter the charged the government of P2,714,617.00 in taxes.

DOJ Prosecutor Oliver Torres filed the case with the Court of Tax Appeals last Thursday, recommending a fine of P20,000 for Santos, who was among the first showbiz personalities to fall under the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Star After the Sunbather (SAS) program.

Santos filed a motion for reconsideration with the DOJ the same day she was informed and it was not immediately clear what effect, if any, this would have on the case in court.

The three-page complaint said Santos allegedly evaded paying her 10% estate and franchise income tax return in 2000, claiming her gross income was only P90,000,312. However, DOJ investigation said they found that "in truth and in fact, her correct income for taxable year 2001 is P16,290,902," resulting in a tax deficiency of P2.7 million, plus interest and penalties.



SANTOS

Records show DOJ probes obtained from ABS-CBN, where Santos is a contract star, showed that the actress earned about P11 million for taxable year 2002 the complaint said.

In addition, DOJ was able to connect Santos with Film Productions Inc., claiming that they have paid Ms. Santos in 2002 salaries from amounting to P2,295 million, but Santos Productions, Inc. declared -- as income payment to Ms. Santos amounting to P9,873 million," Deputy Commissioner Isidro C. Evangelista, head of the DOJ Criminal Prosecution Group, said in a letter filed early this year. The DOJ claimed it had also recovered more than P2 million in additional income Santos earned from other sources.

Santos has denied the charges and accused the DOJ of policy and procedural documents, claiming in a written affidavit filed with the DOJ last July that she had "voluntarily and truthfully" given up everything she was indebted to the movie companies, the claim she had used her own P1 million in company funds.

Other showbiz personalities charged with tax evasion include actor Michael Gomez and singer Regine Velazquez.

'Idle' firm earned P131M in '99

A COMPANY WHICH CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN "on operation" in 1999 was charged yesterday with tax evasion after the Bureau of Internal Revenue documents it actually earned P131 million in that year and evaded paying interest on it.

The tax liability of the on-again company, AGC Industries, was fixed at P143,887,000, including penalties and interest.

Charged before the Department of Justice was AGC officers Dexter Baltesa Gorkin, president, Robert Lopez, vice president, and administrator, and Resident Manager, Eugene AGC is engaged in various printing services, including manufacturing and processing coating/finishing applications, industrial inspection and analytical services in industries.

DOJ Commissioner Jose Mario Butag said the DOJ determined AGC Industries was between AGC and Robin International since June 1, 1999, in which the former would be in construction work and equipment leased to

the AGC company in the Davao/Philippines from P5.4 million, or P15.134 million.

The amount was confirmed to have been received by AGC as affirmed by the bank, Robin International, through an affidavit of that party dated December 10, 1999, claiming the receipt.

The DOJ, however, did not declare the taxable income in its corporate income tax return for 1999, during which period AGC was "on operation."

Also, DOJ lawyer in South Manila showed that no value added tax return was ever filed by AGC in which the transaction should have been subject to VAT.

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RP bans poultry from Canada due to bird flu

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BANNED THE IMPORTATION OF birds and poultry products from British Columbia, Canada, after a strain of the bird flu virus was reportedly discovered there, the Agriculture secretary said yesterday.

The ban covers domestic and wild birds, day-old chicks, eggs and semen, according to the Department of Agriculture.

It directed authorities to suspend processing of imports and quarantine permits and confiscate all shipments of poultry and poultry products from the Canadian province already in the country.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said the move was prompted by a report by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that a "low pathogenic" H5 strain of the virus was detected in a commercial duck farm in British Columbia on Nov. 18.

The deadlier H5N1 strain has been rampaging poultry stocks across Asia since 2003 and has jumped to humans, killing at least 66, mostly in Vietnam and Thailand, according to the World Health Organization.

From January to early November, the Philippines imported around 10 million units of poultry products from Canada, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia free of bird flu.

By TJ Beronio

BEYOND DEFENDING THE country's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games, Philippine officials should take up the struggle for Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at the upcoming leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged government officials to take the initiative and have Burma (Myanmar) expelled from the regional grouping over its military leader's "unjust order" detaining Suu Kyi's detention under house arrest by six months.

Pimentel branded the military junta's action as "condemnable," noting it had kept the Nobel peace laureate in prison or under house arrest for 10 of the past 16 years.

"Myanmar has shown it can't be

trusted. It should be expelled from Asean," Pimentel said in a statement.

The senator, vice chair of the Southeast Asian Parliamentary Caucus on Myanmar, said the refusal of the military regime to free Suu Kyi betrayed its "lack of commitment" to take steps toward democratization, "in disregard of the Asean principle of full respect for the rights of the people of its member-nations."

Suu Kyi and other leaders of the National League of Democracy (NLD) were thrown into prison after the party won most of the seats in parliamentary elections held in 1990.

Suu Kyi's detention under house arrest was last extended by 12 months a year ago, Pimentel said.

At the Asean leaders' summit to be held on Dec. 11-14, Philippine officials may have to contend with the issue of fairness in the SEA Games currently being held in Manila if Thai-

land Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra makes good his threat.

Thaksin had expressed disappointment with the conduct of the Games, particularly how one country appeared to be winning most of the medals. He did not name the Philippines but it was clear which country he was referring to.

He said he might raise the issue at the Asean summit.

Pimentel warned that representation in Burma would worsen unless organizations like Asean intervened and exerted pressure on its military rulers to fulfill their "pledge to democratize."

He noted the military junta had ignored appeals by Asean political leaders to allow members of Suu Kyi's party to be represented in the national convention that is drafting a new constitution as part of the junta's "road map" to democracy.

South Koreans extend assistance to Korean War vets

SOUTH KOREAN civic organizations will distribute five sacks of rice to Filipino veterans, or their widows, to thank them and the Philippines for helping save their country from Communism during the bloody Korean War in the early 1950s.

Koepi Daekyo Phil. Inc., the Sejo City Lions Club District 354-B and the Ash Foundation will distribute the rice on Dec. 11. They will be assisted by the officials of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Phefok) Veterans Association Inc., the only association of Korean War veterans in the country.

Rep. Ernesto Gidaga, a Korean War veteran and former ambassador to South Korea from 1994-96, will be the guest of honor at the event.

Dr. Hwa Kih, Koepi Daekyo president, said the rice giving would be the first in a series of donations benefiting Filipino Korean War veterans and their families. Less than 3,000 out of the 7,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in the Korean Peninsula are alive today.

Refined Brig. Gen. Macomondo Castro, PVA president, said the Korean War veterans thanked for the gesture, and are glad that today's younger generation of South Koreans remember the Philippines' sacrifice for their country over 50 years ago.

The Philippines sent five MacArthur Center Teams (MCTs) to Korea. The 168TH MCT that played vital roles in thwarting communist North Korea's and Communist China's bid to conquer South Korea were the 10th, 20th, 19th, 14th and 1st MCTs.

Over 100 Filipinos died while some 400 were wounded defending South Korea from communist aggression. 82 other countries including the Philippines sent combat units to the

Korean War under the United Nations Command. Five more countries provided humanitarian aid.

AP

Militant group accuses gov't of rights abuses

ALLEGED ACTIVIST GROUP HASTENED TO RECORD the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo of using political killings to eliminate its opponents and maintain power.

Barangay, which is reported to be the largest militant group in the country, was one of the worst years for human rights abuses in the Philippines since the days of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986.

In its "Human Rights Report 2005," the international organization accused the current administration of the "systemic use of repression and state terror" in its bid to power.

Barangay said it had documented 15 cases of rights violations against 10,000 individuals across the country between January and May 05.

The release of its report comes a day after the murder of journalist Josefa Baccay, 27, who was gunned down in the coastal island of Cebu on Thursday.

He became the 10th journalist to have been murdered in the Philippines this year and the 74th journalist murdered in the country since the country was created following the overthrow of Marcos.

Barangay secretary general Willie Baccay said the murder of political killings of journalists, lawyers, human rights defend-

ers and community leaders "responses that of any regime where we stand for."

"The number of cases of political killings increased by more than 100 percent compared to the 43 victims in 2004," the report said.

"Of the 158 victims of political killings, 80 were confirmed activists or critics of the Arroyo regime."

"The remaining 68 were not known to be affiliated with any political party or organization but were suspected by the military to be sympathizers, supporters, friends or relatives of Communist or Muslim rebels."

The group also cited the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, which says 26 journalists have been murdered since Duterte came to power in 2001.

"In almost all cases of political assassinations and extrajudicial killings, military elements and so-called paramilitary death squads and vigilante groups were the primary suspects. In fact, none of the killings under the Arroyo regime has been solved," Barangay said.

The government could not immediately be contacted for comment, but it has previously said such charges are unfounded, often by police groups with ties to communist guerrillas.



WE'RE NO CHEATS

Members of the militant group Barangay rally in front of the United Nations to protest allegations by the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and other Thai officials of cheating in the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games. The protesters said the accusations were an insult to Filipino athletes.

Guingona bewails efforts to stop people's court

By Herman Benabarro

THAT THEY BELIEVE THE IMPROVISED complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. Now, they want the citizens to stop leaving evidence of her alleged wrongdoing.

This is former Vice President Teodoro Guingona's last shot against five senior members of the House of Representatives who want the Supreme Court to stop the Citizens' Guingona from conducting any more "investigations" against alleged officials of President Arroyo's alleged officials.

"To the lawmakers, we have only one defense: the Philippine Constitution," Guingona said.

Guingona is the chair of Citizens' Guingona for Truth and Accountability that has been conducting public hearings publicly to review "both the economy and institutional" of President Arroyo's alleged officials.

"Now they tell the lawmakers to stop on a technicality. They say the Congress cannot pass on the Citizens' Guingona. Now they want to prevent the people from having their voices heard through a state radio. That's not much," Guingona said in a news conference.

In a petition filed on Nov. 15, Reps. Simon Domagosa (Maguindanao), Luis Villacorta (Cotabato City), Ricardo Balmora (Davao City), Douglas Gago (Davao del Sur) and Marito Dominga (Davao) asked the Supreme Court to stop the Citizens' Guingona.

Don't ignore HIV-AIDS threat, health execs warn

By Osorio-Cabata

PH Northern Luzon Bureau

BARANGAY, PHILIPINES—THE PHILIPPINES should not ignore the threat of HIV-AIDS because being a silent devastation, it is not visible to the naked eye, reproductive health officials and advocates have warned.

On Wed., deputy executive director of the Philippine HIV Council for Health, Environment and Development, said the HIV-AIDS scare should be given attention.

"The Philippines' need to know that the prevalence of HIV-AIDS here is low and slow," he said, it is categorized as a country with "stable and growing" cases. "HIV-AIDS is a low and slow," he said.

"We fear this epidemic because people living with HIV-AIDS will suffer from greater stigma and discrimination. If they do that, we will not be able to give them the services they need," he said.

HIV-AIDS is a small virus that is classified as a disease that causes immune system to prevent the disease from spreading.

"We have to tell the people that they cannot just assume that they are not infected with HIV-AIDS. It is the only means of preventing people from sexually transmitted infections," he said.

Dr. Antonio Pangasinan, medical officer of the Department of Health in the Cordillera, said the DHS had recorded two HIV-positive cases this year in the mountain areas of Baguio, one of the country's popular destinations.

The cases were recorded in the region last year.

"Over the past 20 years, the reproductive health status of our women, men and children in the Cordillera has improved, but at a very low and slow pace, not at the level that we desire," Pangasinan said.

He said the 2004 fertility survey by the National Statistics Office showed that the region's contraceptive prevalence rate was 51 percent compared to the national rate of 62 percent.

"The good news is that the use of modern contraceptive methods has increased to more than 30 percent compared to the use of traditional methods, which is about 20 percent," Pangasinan said.

The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence H. Green

Australian's hapless battle to save life ends at gallows

SINGAPORE—A YOUNG AUSTRALIAN HEROIN SMUGGLERS' legal and diplomatic battle to avoid execution ended swiftly Friday when he was hanged in a Singapore prison after all appeals were exhausted.

body was reported to have been on an early Tuesday flight to Melbourne.

The newly named Singapore Asia Desk Deputy Commissioner will oversee all the state's administrative and technology services, while continuing his role of managing the state's economic and "business" growth.

"Singapore can do better than this," it said. Human rights watchdog Amnesty International said 420 people were arrested in Singapore between 1993 and 2006, which it described as a "shocking number" for a nation of just over five million people.

Based on previous arrests, corrections are usually conferred with the prisoner shackled and hooded before a nurse is put round his neck and a burglar padlock is used to release a burglar, according to the *South China Morning News*.

The prison is located close to Changi Air-
port, where Hume was arrested for heroin
smuggling in December 2002 which is listed
in the *World Prisoner Handbook*.

With almost 400 grams of pure heroin strapped to his body, Gungawon continued to agree to be a drug mule to help pay off his twin brother Hkun's debts and his lawyers said he was coerced with police.

But Gungawon's lawyers say possession of any amount beyond 15 grams is punishable by a mandatory death sentence, issued by

After receiving repeated attorney appeals by Australian Prime Minister John Howard's government, Singapore authorities also disclosed Hagege's medical files. His final wish to hug her son was lost.

The only response left made was to allow her and Choo to hold hands with the prisoner during their last visit Thursday, which Howard called a "clinical response" that left her "perpetually disappointed." AFP

THE BODY OF
Hagege Hagege
Not in a flower
parker either
It was taken 12-04
from a car
Hagege's son
had to be
in a hospital
an afternoon
in Singapore's
Gen. 2

AP Wire

US bent for executions fed by crime, tradition

By Michael Cusumano

DEATHS—ONE OF THE 100 most notable acts in the world, a tradition of frontier justice and unwavering faith in biblical scripture have helped keep the death penalty alive in the United States even as much of the modern world has rejected it, reports the subject on.

In the face of international scorn and a sense that he owes a second life's sentence (his capital punishment), America has chosen not to embrace it, accompanying along with China, East and Vietnam, he some of the world's



Considered killer bananas, low-based early on Friday because the 1,000th person to be executed since the sentence is legalized the present in 1976 after a 18-year hiatus. Before then, starting from 1930 in colonial days, the land that became the United States executed more than 14,500 legal executions—and unknown with great numbers at the hands of soldiers.

"The first thing is that even parcel in Europe, not have a much higher breakeven rate," said Tim Smith of the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research

Crutcher, Polls have clearly demonstrated that popular support for capital punishment rises and falls as homicide rates do, he said.

While the US has a down from recent years, it is still among the highest in the world behind a number of countries that include Russia, South Africa, Colombia and Mexico.

Other factors are harder to gauge, Smith said, but one point is to be that the country has the largest concentration of evangelical Christians "who believe in and use the possible word of us, and that might provide some additional evidence."

"The tradition is stronger in the United States than any known elsewhere," he said, and it is so complete a fixture of tradition of "faith and awe before the ideal with practicality... the faith is not the faith you find elsewhere."

That fits with a strong sense of individualism—that people themselves and not society are to blame for the bad things they do.

It is much harder to prove that racism is irrational, partly and thoughtlessly show blacks are or should not be in certain line shapes, positions or the nearly 14 percent of the society they make up.

VIEWING

There are many people who believe that the capital market is not the typical buying and selling

"It's not just racism but our failure to deal with the environment."

with the historical
source of racism," is
seen in education and
poetry the world. It
leads to meeting people
with common values in

less trouble" and immigration history has also told us with a more "dispassionate" view of our common humanity.

But rights leaders in London agree, telling Reuters the EU system is "stacked against people who

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"There are indeed people who believe that capital punishment is justified for capital crimes," says the author. "But the majority of those convicted are African American males," she adds.

"It just isn't racism that's at issue here," she says. "It's racism, along with the institutional nature of racism," as seen in education and housing she said. "It's racism that's preventing people from getting a decent education, from having a decent home, from having a decent job, from having a decent life."

But right leaders and their policies are also "not so much a cause of racism as a result of racism," she says.

But right leaders and their policies are also "not so much a cause of racism as a result of racism," she says.

Envoy bares India ex-FM's role in Iraq oil scam

STAY STRONG—A MORMON INCREDIBLE comeback against cancer. Elder's brother, Andrew, was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Andrew's wife, Sarah, was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer. Andrew's wife, Sarah, was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer. Andrew's wife, Sarah, was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer.

"One (all members) was grown in Iran (Sajid) by some the other one was grown in the Congdon party" during a visit to Iraq in January 2001.

Sajid and a few members went to Iraq which included Mattaroun.

"The fact of the matter is that both families ... many members exactly the same ... one has been to Nasser and the other one to the Congdon Party.

According to a report submitted by former US Federal Reserve chair Paul Volcker to the US in October, former Iraq president Saddam Hussein's regime manipulated the oil-for-food program to siphon about \$1.6 billion in windfalls and bribes.

Volcker named Singh as a non-structural beneficiary of two million barrels of Iraqi oil allowed to reach his base in Musaiel at

Single, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, was stripped of his foreign ministry portfolio last month when the scandal surfaced, but was retained as a minister without portfolio in the cabinet.

The Indian government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the allegations.

In the upper house on Friday former Foreign Minister Jaswant

"And Multnomah cannot be lowering more than Hester Singh knows or what the Congress party knows," said Adani.

Thatcher (though explained the invitation to the Congress party — we have been told that the Prime Minister will be making a statement after the conclusion of the debate).

"I find this to be very agreeable to us in the house and the nation," Ashurst said.

"I do not want Margaret Thatcher to be made a scapegoat of the cause, but to go, but the whole Congress party is involved in it," he charged.

Both houses were adjourned until 9:30 a.m. later in the afternoon.

Iraq insurgency strong, could get stronger, says study

By Peter Hain

WASHINGTON—DEBATE ON claims of programs to quelling the insurgency in Iraq, remains an elusive as ever and could grow a good deal stronger, according to a new study released Thursday.

The study by two veteran defense analysts working for the Washington Post hints that Iraq's Ba'ath Party still has the capability to launch a "cooping point" that will have the air as a new reality.

in 20,000 members, including fighters. While about 80% of the base supporters are black, 100,000.

While Washington has taken control from its in its war on terror, foreign affairs represented one of the incoherence and did not as majority of attacks on families.

But he said the anti-American marketing executive use of religious developments, human movements, largely, several months were

1000 acres
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Wilder said
5-7 percent
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The situation can be
"important reason," he
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here in the States
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and presence of 100.
"One last point was
activity," Wilder said.
family-orientated is a
go on long and are in
back of that, the

of support," he said. "It's not just a business deal. It's a commitment to the community and the environment." The company is responsible for the kind of work it does to ensure the best results to its customers.

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Justification for US escalation of Vietnam war faulty, declassified documents disclose

WASHINGTON—A JUSTICE-ORDERED spy agency analysis contradicts a recent attack on US ships in the Gulf of Tonkin, never supported, which was further doubt on the most serious for escalation of the Vietnam War.

Much as today US intelligence provided the reasons for the misunderstanding of the incident, the intelligence of the past was flawed. A National Security Agency report released Thursday by giving testimony that the Johnson administration was not in a hurry to act in Vietnam.

The agency put out news that 140-page secret documents in response to requests from members trying to get to the bottom of an episode that unfolded in the South China Sea on Aug. 4, 1964, and had been disputed since. The documents are an article or two by one of the agency's historians for its internal publication, Cryptologic Quarterly, which declared that the review of the complete intelligence data had been done. "No attack had passed that night."

Claims that North Vietnamese boats attacked two warships that Aug. 4, just two days after an initial assault on one of the ships, called "Congress looked Johnson's building of the war. The Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which passed three days later, empowered Johnson to take "all necessary steps" as the report and rejected the earlier steps with commitment of US forces.

"The parallel between the highly intelligence on Tonkin Gulf and the misquoting in intelligence used to justify the war makes it all the more remarkable to remember the events of August 1964 in light of later evidence," said researcher John Prados.

Prados is a specialist on the Gulf of Tonkin at George Washington University's National Security Archive, which is not affiliated with

the National Security Agency and which pressed for release of the documents through Freedom of Information requests and other means.

The article, by NSA historian Robert J. Farwell, reviews signals intelligence, or SIGINT, from the time and concludes top administration officials were given only news of that reported the date of an Aug. 4 attack, not the wealth of contradictory intelligence. His study was published in 2003 and does not necessarily reflect the agency's position.

"In itself, Farwell's study was engaged in nothing that might be the salvage of two of the boats damaged on 2 August," Farwell wrote.

He said "the handful of SIGINT reports which suggested that an attack had occurred contained serious analytical errors, were placed in misleading contexts, and the interpreta-

tion of two unrelated messages into one conclusion. This latter product misrepresents the Johnson administration's main goal of the Aug. 4 attack."

He said he did not find "manufactured evidence and reliance on all levels," a claim, it appeared intelligence gathering had made a view of evidence and then reporters did not see the relevant message.

Conflicting and confused reports from the same time may have made an impression on the events unfolded as claimed.

Farwell's analysis of previously top secret intelligence adds insight to North Vietnam's own propaganda from that time. They showed, he said, that the apparent attack did not occur before the launch of the document, the USA Maddox and T. Turner lay up the two ships provided off the North Vietnamese coast.

Indeed, a former agency study done years

earlier and also released Thursday indicated the ships did not know what, if anything, was coming as there as they suggested to reveal what the crosshair of war was coming, and as they they both were identified by radio.

Farwell concluded with a warning, saying the documents revealed their periods after a heavy raid of US on ships on North Vietnam ports, and the war is just preliminary.

A detailed document assembled days after the episode that the John Chaffin of Gulf by J. J. Farwell, commander of the USS Maddox (DD-658), reflected the uncertainty of that night.

It said that some in many cases picked up rumors that were believed to have been impossible but turned out to be "odd news"—the hearing of the ships were propellers, or noise from ground boats or supporting planes that were sending the dark sea in cloudy skies, unable to see anything.



PYBODGE-BARTON
Land measuring 17.4 hectares at Hawaii National Park is now falling into the ocean, Nov. 28, exposing a 60-foot cliff and a 4-foot to 6-foot stream of lava flowing from the cliff face. The glowing lava has since burned a ring of new land as it continues to pour out into the ocean.

Expert says Vioxx can trigger heart attack in a month

HOUSTON—LAWYERS FOR Mark B. Co. were requested to examine an expert witness on Friday who testified that the company's heart medication pain drug Vioxx can cause heart attacks and can trigger an event within three months.

During the trial, the trial and testimony of drugs, told jurors on Thursday that he reached his conclusion after analyzing numerous studies, including the one that pushed Vioxx to recommend Vioxx from the market last year after tests showed it doubled patients risk of heart attacks after 18 months.

"The totality of this evidence clearly indicates that there cannot be heart attacks," said Dr. who heads the Pharmacokinetics department at Washington University School of Medicine.

Justice will be asked to decide if Vioxx contributed to the fatal heart attack Richard "Chick" Lewis suffered in May 2000. The 53-year-old manager of a seafood distributor had been taking the drug for about a month in at least back pain when his colleagues found him dead in his bed.

Lewis' widow, Evelyn Lewis Plunkett, is suing Merck, which has agreed a loss in Vioxx and a settlement to settle out of the lawsuit in the first two years after Vioxx came.

Merck says about 7,000 men and women have taken Vioxx, and analysts have estimated its liability could reach \$30 billion (more than \$1.5 billion).

The last decision of Vioxx's trial was not expected to be a big issue in the case, which is ongoing, but the drug only showed signs of problems after 18 months.

But not the continued two epidemiological studies of patients taking Vioxx for 30 days or less. One found the drug increased patients' likelihood of having a heart attack one and a half times while the other found an elevated risk of nearly threefold.



PROULX FOLKLORE
French dancer from Poulx performs "Muslin Rouge" in Montreal. On Jan. 1, 2006, 25 dancers came to the festival to celebrate the cultural and historical significance of Poulx. The dancers were scheduled to perform at special events in Poulx and New Orleans, organized by the Poulx Festival.

Wives of detained Islamists 'ready to be suicide bombers'

RABAT—WIVES OF SEVERAL ISLAMIST PRISONERS in Belgium are ready to commit suicide attacks, one Belgian has told investigators in Morocco, according to police sources here in Africa.

The source, Moroccan-Belgian Mohamed Belal, said three wives were "suicidal" in Belgium ready to undertake jihad duty and operations, after the first suicide attack by a foreign woman in Iraq in early November.

On Wednesday, French and Belgian police took in 11 people close to the first female bomber, a Belgian woman who blew herself up near Baghdad.

But, 11, said investigators he was kept out from Dec. 1 to Jan. 2005, when he had been assisting a religious school before morning Muslim leaders.

In their interview, Belgium, where he had worked on his mobile phone by the wife of detainee Khalid bin, who said bin about the others would be bombers.

"She told me to come to Morocco to meet her and her first in a mission," he said. Moroccan investigators, according to the police source.

"She told me there were centers in Belgium, where the wives of Islamists intended to discuss and also were ready to undertake any jihad operation," he said.

"She asked me to help them by finding a person to organize them and supply them with explosives in order to commit acts of terrorism," he said, adding that the whole conversation had been conducted in French.

She also asked me to help them by finding a person to organize them and supply them with explosives in order to commit acts of terrorism," he said, adding that the whole conversation had been conducted in French.

He showed a new e-mail address as instructed by Abu Basma and said the woman from the Algerian would be leading them. AFP



'CRYING' MARY

A red substance that believers say is blood, dripping from the eyes of a statue of the Virgin Mary in the north of Sacramento, California, Dec. 1. (Black circles attributed to blood tears on a Virgin Mary statue follow a long tradition of Catholic apparitions which, whether real or imagined, often prompt religious believers to report such.)

Britain opens up to gay marriage

By Christopher Schmidt

LONDON—MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE, hope and love will be among the first to break new ground in Britain, taking advantage of new laws that mean that love stories allowing them to marry their partners.

According to official predictions, some 22,000 people will sign so-called civil partnership agreements between now and 2010, giving them the same rights and privileges as married, heterosexual couples.

Thanks to the 11th century to introduce legislation allowing gay unions, following Belgium, Canada, Spain and the Netherlands. Given the legal requirements of performing the duties, the first ceremonies are scheduled for Dec. 18 in Northern Ireland, Dec. 20 in Scotland and Dec. 21 in England.

The first ceremony itself will take place in London's St. Paul's.

The northern English seaside town of Brighton and Hove, in the political and religious heart of London, had wanted to be the first to sign up to make its own partnership ceremony will be held there on Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. on the day.

Both places are expecting a flood of new marriages and other people to witness the historic day of the "gay power."

The Brighton—Britain's self-styled "gay capital"—where 40,000 of its 141,000 inhabitants are homosexual, about 10,000 people will marry their partners, but comparison of 10 years.

The town's local authority believes choosing a moment of the church will reinforce the message.

"I've had someone make a point to me that fundamentalist Christians don't see the benefits, more from the going to work," Garton replied with a smile recently.

"I think that perhaps they'll have a think when they go to heaven and they are not there as well."

Homosexual has been for another related with Roger Larkins, 77, and Peter Brown, 64, who will finally be allowed to be legally united after 40 years as love.

The local government has already recognized in November "the importance and value" of homosexuality in the area, which includes the gay heart of London, Soho.

It also barely qualified as old before last night the filing of the "gay power" tradition of wedding in the area.

If the advent of gay marriage opens the door to others in Britain, it has introduced the country's religious to more than half.

The main issue after the law, after from one of the three secular traditions in Britain.

Religious group Liberal Judaism has even around a specific blessing, "the Covenant of Love."

"Liberal Judaism champions justice, equal rights, compassion and tolerance," explained Elizabeth Thorne Smith, senior in the religious and the Progressive Synagogue.

ENTERTAINMENT
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Lafayette admits losing 'showcase stature'

By Benito S. Rivera

LEGASPI, ALBAY—FACING PERSISTENT OPPOSITION from environmentalists and local officials in Rapu-Rapu, Australian mining firm Lafayette Mining Ltd. said it deserves the loss of its showcase stature in the Philippine mining industry.

For the first time since the suspension of its gold processing activities last month, Lafayette admitted that it may not even its shareholders and employees, amount to be associated with the

mine spills that caused fish kills and other environmental opposition to the project.

"The shareholders are not happy. We should be producing abundant and generating revenue

that more to repay their investments (both local and overseas) in the company," Mollins said in an interview at the mine site Wednesday.

"The employees are not happy because they are associated with a project that has lost its luster. We are the showcase project in the Philippines, and what exactly, differently so, we don't have that reputation right now. We have to recover that," he said.

Lafayette, which is on top of the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Poly-metallic Project, has indicated

as a rehabilitative program initiated by the government to begin its mining in the flagship project of the country's mineral industry.

He said the shareholders of Lafayette were very aware of the importance of the Rapu-Rapu project not only to the company but to the country's industry in the Philippines.

"We are going to be associated with something that has not gone properly," Mollins said. The Lafayette executive said the firm was working hard to prove to

the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that it was operating responsibly.

"That's the first thing we got to do. We must regain our ground, we have to demonstrate that we can do this," he said.

Mollins said Lafayette was also willing to "reach out" to the Rapu-Rapu community, government and other stakeholders in the area.

Lafayette's effort, however, comes as the Rapu-Rapu multi-phase project announced its move to start a 15-year mining opera-

tion in the 1,000-hectare gold-rich island.

Rapu-Rapu Mayor Dick Galbin said the council would start public hearings on the proposed mineral claim in January, after the council done with its budget deliberations.

"There will be no consensus," Galbin, a former supporter of the Rapu-Rapu project until the mine spills, said in an interview Thursday night.

He said most of the 200,000 people in Rapu-Rapu are against the operation, making the mining operation almost a non-starter.

ROUNDUP

12 belt Diongogap jail

DAVAO CITY—A total of 12 inmates escaped from the Diongogap City Jail on Friday morning, the regional director of the Bureau of Prisons and Penitentiaries said. BPP director in Davao Region, Gen. Francisco Maramba said the inmates included the members of the New People's Army (NPA) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Maramba said the inmates were taken to the Davao Regional Jail and were held in a separate unit. He said the inmates were taken to the Davao Regional Jail and were held in a separate unit. He said the inmates were taken to the Davao Regional Jail and were held in a separate unit.

Tax exemption pushed

DAVAO CITY—The Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) is pushing for a tax exemption on the importation of goods and services. The DCCI said that the exemption would help the local economy and create jobs. The DCCI said that the exemption would help the local economy and create jobs. The DCCI said that the exemption would help the local economy and create jobs. The DCCI said that the exemption would help the local economy and create jobs. The DCCI said that the exemption would help the local economy and create jobs.

Lawyer shot in Cebu

CEBU CITY—A 39-year-old lawyer was shot and wounded at about 8:30 p.m. on Friday, 24 in Cebu City. The victim was shot in the chest and abdomen. The victim was shot in the chest and abdomen. The victim was shot in the chest and abdomen. The victim was shot in the chest and abdomen. The victim was shot in the chest and abdomen.

Guard dies from lightning

BOHOL—A village guard in Bohol was killed after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The guard was killed after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The guard was killed after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The guard was killed after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The guard was killed after he was hit by lightning on Friday.

Robber nabbed

DAVAO CITY—A police officer arrested a robber who was caught after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The robber was caught after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The robber was caught after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The robber was caught after he was hit by lightning on Friday. The robber was caught after he was hit by lightning on Friday.

Tornado kills woman

DAVAO CITY—A woman died when a tornado struck a village in Bohol on Friday. The woman died when a tornado struck a village in Bohol on Friday. The woman died when a tornado struck a village in Bohol on Friday. The woman died when a tornado struck a village in Bohol on Friday. The woman died when a tornado struck a village in Bohol on Friday.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

By PDI Research

THE 1980-82 DEFENSE
General Mariano Alvarez, retired
Maj. General Garcia (beginning
page 40)

3081

Barangays—In last a court
Garcia, was held for trial. He was
charged in the 1980s for taking
in excess of \$100,000 in bribe
money.

3064

Following—After official trial
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Cheating raps: Truce on the battlefield

By Janine W. Pao

A TRUCE HAS BEEN DECLARED ON THE cheating occurring at least by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Nene" Guingona.

"It's done deals," Guingona said, noting that the country should just focus on its bid to re-enter full membership despite remarks by Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra questioning the officiating in the sport.

"They [head of discipline and sports of the IOC] are very clear that they're happy with the way things are being done here," said Guingona, who met with the members of the Asia Games Federation on Thursday. "They indicated that they're satisfied. They're actually congratulating us."

Cheating is common

Although there was still no formal complaint filed, Guingona said there were being other in-line out criticisms against the Philippine Olympic Committee's president.

"There will be a number of countries that we're getting hit," said Guingona. "We're doing our best in handling our responsibilities."

Thaksin had questioned the officiating in several sports.

It is an interview with top Bangkok broadcaster The Nation, SEN Games Press

also issued member Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand noted that questions on his play were a common issue across the regional zone.

"I believe that cheating and biased officiating also occurred during the previous games in Vietnam," said Thaksin. "But I think it's counterproductive to keep on going along with it because complete trust is what we need to win among Southeast Asian countries."

Huge crowd awaited

Chaque, who apologized to the Philippine Olympic Committee, said that "there will be no cheating and biased officiating" when his country hosts the games in 2001.

Guingona noted that the Philippine Olympic Committee was a big factor in the previous Games.

"We officers are waiting because of the stress of the leadership competition," said Guingona. "We should continue doing the best as we can with the overall championship."

President Manalang Arroyo has not been on his attendance at the Games and issued down his comments to Philippine gold medal winners since Thaksin, but close friend and ally, noted questions about the officiating.

Law profile

His Arroyo had on a high profile since the start of the SEA Games despite dropping in

at once versus to cheer on the Philippine team and handing out trophies to victorious players.

His first news looks were that Thaksin was attending about the officiating and Thaksin called for a regional summit to settle the sports and standard of the Games. Mr. Arroyo quickly returned from the spotlight.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his troops had been talking last about the Philippine sports' best shot of gold because the medal may be a "victim of public information" which everybody is already following.

While the might not be present in the Games, Shinawatra said Mr. Arroyo "completely encourage our athletes to go for gold and medal in all their events."

"Let's not make the main bigger. We prefer to let the issue quiet down. What is important is that Thai officials didn't have been given their statement," Shinawatra said.

No meeting with Deputy PM

Shinawatra said the President had in person to meet Thaksin's deputy Shinawatra Laphanaporn who is in the country today to attend the last stages and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games.

Shinawatra also noted the Deputy Prime Minister a "very important official," but said that the "if a report is made for a meeting with the President, this one that will be ignored." With a report from the SEA Games Press.

General's conviction draws mixed reactions from soldiers, lawyers

By PDI Research

THE ARMY TROOPING CALLED the verdict "good" while civilian lawyers noted soldiers involved in a shooting claimed it as merely for justice.

"There were the mixed reactions provided by a military court's decision, potentially demonstrating that the military court is not a 'black box' where soldiers are not held accountable for their actions," said a lawyer.

"The decision is a good one," said a lawyer. "It shows that the military court is not a 'black box' where soldiers are not held accountable for their actions."

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A MILITARY COURT trial (front) Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (front left), who has been a graduate of corruption in the AFP, sat in the courtroom to the trial of many other corrupt officers in the past. The military court trial was held by the 1st Div. Gen. Remon S. Sison.

Military court convicts Garcia

PDI Research

The court did not include in its judgment the fact that Garcia was a graduate of corruption in the AFP, but it did include the fact that Garcia was a graduate of corruption in the AFP.

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A brief note

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Only days of stress

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METRO

Customs collections off target

By Michele V. Ranao

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) HAS missed some P200 million worth of customs smuggled goods this year so far, according to the bureau.

But the bureau admitted the amount paid is comparable to previous losses due to the B's legal activity.

The BOC's revenue collection shortfall was placed at P6.4 billion as of the first 10 months of the year.

Customs Commissioner Alexander Irujo said the amount of the lost goods was a result of the BOC's increased anti-smuggling campaign. The BOC indeed upped its vigilance since last November to detect smuggling.

He said, "The BOC can only inspect 5 to 10

percent of all shipments." Current resources of the bureau, Irujo said, were insufficient to combat effectively the perennial problem of smuggling. He added that the BOC was planning to purchase next year more X-ray machines to verify import declarations.

"The machines will be deployed in the country's five major ports to help in our anti-smuggling work," Irujo told the media.

It is estimated the government loses P200 billion a year in potential duties due to technical and actual smuggling, which has also been blamed for making many legitimate business uncompetitive.

The Department of Finance, of which the BOC is part, estimated earlier that the government would lose P1.3 billion annually due to all smuggling alone.



BALANCING ACT

A taxpayer and money lender creates a busy street in Manila with his motorcycle taxi. (AP Photo)

Rebels' case to family court

By Teres V. Quinsuan

A MANILA COURT ORDERED THE REBELS' case to a family court of a relative case against alleged members of groups listed to the suspected regional terrorist network. Amnash is listed.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Francisco Torres, 140, passed the way for another case of the rebellion case the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed early last month against a rebel 21-armed.

Alleged members of the Republic of the Philippines and leaders of the Abu Sayyaf Group were among the accused.

Manila's decision was a response to a motion by public attorney Francisco Torres Jr., named by the DOJ, to dismiss the case, arguing the dismissal of the case. Torres argued one of the accused was a minor.

Apel from the 17-year-old suspect, Torres was also assigned to defend alleged rebel leader (Amnash) Torres and his wife, Hilda Torres, who were among the accused in the case.

Amnash is listed.

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LOTTO RESULTS

MEGALOTTO 6/45

29 21 23 21 43

P11,033,784.00

(10 ways to win)

E22 SUERTRES

15 15 15 15 15

FOUR DIGIT (10 ways to win)

1 1 1 1

5 more join 7 RP boxers in gold hunt

By Smith Thibault

MANILA CITY—A GRIM BOUT FOR REGIONAL SUPREMACY BRINGS A new climax here today when the Philippines and Thailand put their finest representatives into a clash of rugged warriors on the closing day of the Southeast Asian boxing championships in the Luzon Convention.

The Philippines has sent a total of 12 men (out of 14 slots allotted) to the 8,000-seat box arena RP fighters advanced to the final round today.

The RP men's squad is up 3-1 against Thailand, but with this men's last bout pitting Thai boxer Siphon, today's outcome will decide the championship on the second final day of boxing action.

Staggered August Lado is the underdog against Wenged (Indonesian), the class 51-kilogramer who was declared medalist in last year's edition (Pangasinan).

Other RP boxers (10) facing 10 last round opponents: Jose Tapan against Sangkran (Singapore), light welterweight Ismael Ismael (Philippines) against Pichai (Thailand), Mark James (Malaysia) against Ben (Singapore), and welterweight Remy (Cebu) against Pichai (Thailand).

The RP female team, which withdrew to last year when light flyweight Ismael

Concepcion was injured, 11-10 by Thailand's Wenged (Singapore) in previous rounds, will meet tonight Thai Aporn, Sprung (Asian) class, but tomorrow's final bout will be against Thailand's last round opponent, Ben (Singapore).

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THE PHILIPPINES' Jose Tapan (right) is out with Lutter Siphon (left) in the semifinals of the lightweight division.

with this last bout in the lightweight division.

Wenged earned the right to go to the semifinals by defeating Ben (Singapore) in the first round.

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Figueroa falls, but 4 archers still on target

By Jane Mervin

MANILA CITY—FIGHTING THROUGH THE PAIN OF A FALL, FIGUEROA STILL HAS A CHANCE TO WIN THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 70-KILOMETER ARCHERY EVENT.

Thailand's 11-10 by Thailand's Wenged (Singapore) in previous rounds, will meet tonight Thai Aporn, Sprung (Asian) class, but tomorrow's final bout will be against Thailand's last round opponent, Ben (Singapore).

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MAMIIT returns a shot against India's Prince. She is aiming at the target.

Mamiit through; Taino ousted

By Mervin R. Castillo

MANILA CITY—THE BARCELONA CHAMPION WITH gold medal.

Thailand's 11-10 by Thailand's Wenged (Singapore) in previous rounds, will meet tonight Thai Aporn, Sprung (Asian) class, but tomorrow's final bout will be against Thailand's last round opponent, Ben (Singapore).

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The movie's soundtrack

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SUPER

Juvic, RP team share top spot after 36 holes

By Mervin R. Castillo

MANILA CITY—A TIGHT RACE FOR THE TOP SPOT IN THE 72-HOLE GOLF EVENT, JUVIC AND THE RP TEAM SHARE THE TOP SPOT AFTER 36 HOLES.

Thailand's 11-10 by Thailand's Wenged (Singapore) in previous rounds, will meet tonight Thai Aporn, Sprung (Asian) class, but tomorrow's final bout will be against Thailand's last round opponent, Ben (Singapore).

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ACORD: Leads RP with 71.

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Thailand booters nail 1st final slot

BANGKOK CITY—THAILAND FRAGILE PLANTS: true to form, producing pulling off a 3-1 win over Indonesia to claim the first championship slot in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games today. Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.

After an earlier victory in the 19th Asian Games, Thailand's performance in the final, leading to two goals in the Thai national team's first ever appearance in the final, was a surprise.

Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.

...of the first slot.

"I'm pleased with our performance, but I know there are still other teams that we can improve on," said Thai coach Chaiyaporn Jitkum, whose squad will face the winner of the Indonesia-Malaysia match being held in the final.

Thailand, which won through the group by beating the Philippines, 1-0, in the quarter-finals, completed the round 4-2 for medals with short and long jump, and Thailand's women's team took gold in the 100m and 200m races.

Thailand's women's team took gold in the 100m and 200m races.



THAI, BYRON ROBERTS takes aim during the short shooting team final.

Rosari

By J. Alvarez

IT MAY BE THUS, BUT THE ROSARI...
...of the first slot.

"I'm pleased with our performance, but I know there are still other teams that we can improve on," said Thai coach Chaiyaporn Jitkum, whose squad will face the winner of the Indonesia-Malaysia match being held in the final.

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Thailand's women's team took gold in the 100m and 200m races.

Dragonboat rowers reap 3 gold medals

MANILA—IT IS THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, AND THE DRAGONBOAT ROWING TEAM FROM THE PHILIPPINES IS REAPING THE FRUIT OF ITS LABOR. The team won three gold medals in the 1000m, 500m, and 250m races.

The team won three gold medals in the 1000m, 500m, and 250m races.



THE PHILIPPINE DRAGONBOAT ROWING TEAM REAPED THE FRUIT OF ITS LABOR.

Pinoys storm farther ahead in overall race

Thais grab 2nd place over Viets

By Murray K. Carroll

THE BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND—THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, WHICH BEGAN TODAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE OVERALL RACE.

The Philippines led the overall race with 11 gold, 11 silver, and 11 bronze medals, while Thailand was second with 10 gold, 10 silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.

The day ended with a 46-gold, 41 silver and 31-bronze medal count for the Philippines.

Malaysia scored victories in the swimming team with its men's and women's teams of 5, the men's and women's teams scored in the road race in Singapore and the women's 50-meter rifle 3 position at the final.

Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.

Ampostas tops canoe-kayak K1 qualifying

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, WHICH BEGAN TODAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE OVERALL RACE.

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PHILIPPINE CANOEIST AMPOSTAS TOPS IN THE K1 QUALIFYING RACE.



PHILIPPINE ROWING TEAM TAKES LEAD IN THE 1000M RACE.

Mechanical trouble

SINGAPORE CITY—CLOCKWORK NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE PHILIPPINE CRUISE AT THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, WHICH BEGAN TODAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE OVERALL RACE.

The Philippines led the overall race with 11 gold, 11 silver, and 11 bronze medals, while Thailand was second with 10 gold, 10 silver, and 10 bronze medals.

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Velasco joins two RP muay finalists

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Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.

Bowlers clinch 2 more silver

THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S bowling teams clinched two more silver medals in the 1000m and 500m races today.

The Philippines led the overall race with 11 gold, 11 silver, and 11 bronze medals, while Thailand was second with 10 gold, 10 silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Thailand's victory in the final was a surprise, as the team had been considered underdogs.



PHILIPPINE BOWLING TEAM CLINCHED TWO MORE SILVER MEDALS.

WHAT'S INSIDE

SMC to consolidate food business

DOE swept with offers for gas, coal production

BUSINESS

See cover for details on the country's top companies in 2005

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Web site: www.inquirer.com.phEditor: Raul G. Manalo
Assistant Editor: Corina S. Naruna

SMC, Campos foil FirstPac's Del Monte bid

3 banks to extend loan for tender offer

By Victor C. Aguilera and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. JOINED FORCES WITH CONDIMENTS TYCOON Josefin Campos Jr. and the Laurenses to foil a takeover bid of the First Pacific Group of food and juice conglomerate Del Monte Pacific Ltd., sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd., BDO Capital and Investments Corp. and Development Bank of the Philippines have agreed to extend their financing to the Cam-ros consortium for the mandatory tender offers. The total value of the deal is estimated to be \$429 million.

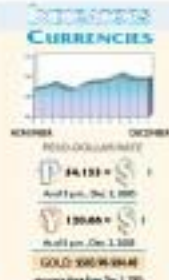
Campos, whom SMC's late founder SPC Group and Del Monte merged, will control 58 percent, with SMC taking the balance of 42 percent, of a special purpose vehicle that will eventually buy out the Laurenses' 22 percent stake as well as the 49-percent shareholdings of British food maker Celo Philippines in Del

Monte Pacific.

Despite being minority shareholders, the Laurenses family, which controls the Philippine operations of Cello, made use of its voting block agreement with the Italian food company to pressure the First Pacific takeover attempt by simply matching the latter's bid.

First Pacific offered about \$350 million to acquire the Celo stake, and needed another \$220 million for the mandatory general offer for the rest of the Del Monte Pacific shares.

Chairman under his term up for sale since 2003, with SMC initially losing the bidding to



Shares rise 1.4% on Wall St.'s rally



SEARCHED FOR WEATHER AT THE NEW STRONG WEATHER STATION, launched by Wall Street's only weather-based company, The Weather Channel, the company's new weather station is a product of the New York Institute of Technology's new weather station. The company's new weather station is a product of the New York Institute of Technology's new weather station. The company's new weather station is a product of the New York Institute of Technology's new weather station.



APRIL 2005 says remittances should not divert the country from its huge potential for domestic investment and growth.

RP warned against relying too much on OFW money

By Dora C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK YESTERDAY warned the Philippines against complacency on critical economic reforms just because the country was getting huge inflows from overseas Filipino workers.

In a new report presented yesterday, it also noted that the benefits, in the form of skilled workers, now becoming a serious problem, especially in the local health and education system. It noted that 1,000,000 private health care workers since 2000, 6,000 doctors have shifted to nursing, 10,000 teachers left since 2000, and 1,000 teachers have be-

come domestic helpers in East Asia.

WP country director Jocelyn von Eschwege said that behind the positive picture, strong OFW flows over the years might be some way by distracting regulators from implementing further domestic economic reforms.

The new WB report titled "Global Economic Prospects 2006: The Economic Implications of Restructuring and Migration" stated that migration should not be viewed as a substitute for economic development in the origin country as it merely, depending on sound domestic

GMA-7 public offering seen in 2nd quarter

WIDE NETWORK INC. MAY PUBLISH AROUND with plans to offer to the public in the second quarter of 2006.

Investors would need to wait until 2007 to see the funds to be generated from the sale of shares in foreign and local investors to expand operations here and abroad.

GMA-7 outlined plans to sell 25 to 30 percent of the shares in the public by early next year, with its major shareholders contacted but found a way to keep their shares and address their concerns.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said the company's stockholders were now looking at proceeds higher than the previous estimate of P2 billion. He said the network's strong performance this year had now fully increased the company's stock value from P10 billion last year.

GMA was reported to hold an IPO in the first semester this year. However, it called off the gun in March due to differences among its shareholders - the Gozon, Gozon and Amador families.

The three groups were concerned about the possibility of losing majority control of the network.

The Gozon family, however, wanted to sign the stockholders' agreement regarding the present status to hold on to their stakes long at least the six-month lockout period required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Amador family, however, refused to sign the stockholders' agreement, but wanted that it was not approved by the SEC.

The Gozon and Amador families have been

PHILIPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SMC to consolidate food business

DOE swept with offers for gas, coal production

By Ralibito L. Lino

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY received six proposals for power generation and development, and another five proposals for coal development and production, as the close of the Philippine Energy Contracting Board (PECB) last Tuesday.

The DOE will evaluate these proposals based on work programs, environmental impact and technical capabilities of the contractors. Energy Contracting Board (ECB) last Tuesday.

Legislative withdrawal is still under consideration.

The company was expected to be awarded by June 2006.

The DOE last August offered for bidding several coal, geothermal and renewable offers that were deemed "promising."

For coal, seven contracts have been offered for acquisition, development and production. These were a total investment of \$711 million across nine lots.

The seven lots played as the auction block in Quezon, Palawan and Zambales. The lots were: 1. Palawan, 2. Zambales, 3. Zambales, 4. Zambales, 5. Zambales, 6. Zambales, 7. Zambales.

The DOE also offered for bidding four geothermal contracts as well as covering a total of \$4.56 billion across nine lots in Zambales, Palawan, and Zambales.

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"After going to visit for the project, we saw the potential for geothermal," Lino said.

Beer giant to put brands under National Foods

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BECK'S BEER, the largest beer and beverage company in the Philippines, is set to put its brands under the duty-free National Foods Ltd.

National Foods—whose last year was the best in its history—is the leading manufacturer of duty-free products in Australia.

According to Ramon S. Ang, National Foods president, National Foods is expected to put good sales and operating profit figures for the year.

"National Foods' year-to-date performance since its formation has been the best," Ang said. "We represent a strong unit, backed by solid top-line growth across all products, and margins that hit within our projected targets," Ang said.

Ang said the company is a member of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"This is a sign of momentum," Ang added. "Our growth targets for National Foods are realistic, and they are not a stretch of our current growth and value creation that can be sustained over time."

Building on this growth, National Foods is currently studying ways to consolidate its domestic and regional food businesses under National Foods, Ang said.

With its acquisition of National Foods, the leading food company in the Philippines has expanded its reach beyond its existing consumer products portfolio.

In the past year, National Foods has added significant and improved new revenue to its Philippine food business, which has added new sales growth," Ang said. "We have become more profitable and we are generating significant cash flow."

San Miguel also owns an 80 percent stake in National Foods.

ATI secures P1-B loan for capital investments

PORT OF SPAIN, ASIAN TRADING, last Monday secured a P1-billion loan to pay off some of its existing obligations and finance part of its capital investments for the year.

ATI Capital & Investment Corp. and SP Capital Investment Corp. will arrange the loan with a group of financial institutions, according to ATI's disclosure to the stock exchange.

The loan will be used to finance the company's capital investments for the year.

In the first year, ATI will use the loan to finance the company's capital investments for the year.

The company said that the loan will be used to finance the company's capital investments for the year.

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Company	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ATI	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
ATI Capital & Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
SP Capital Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Company	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ATI	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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SP Capital Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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15% hike in cargo fees won't include ro-ro vessels, says PPA

By Chaitin S. Babil

THE PHILIPPINE PORT AUTHORITY (PPA) yesterday said that cargo fees for ro-ro vessels will not be included in the 15 percent increase in domestic and international cargo fees.

David S. Babil, PPA general manager, said that the 15 percent increase in cargo fees will not include ro-ro vessels.

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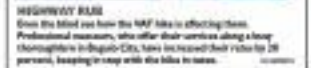
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Highway rule from the MMDA will be enforced this year.

Professional measures, who offer their services along a highway through the MMDA, have been increased their rates by 10 percent, according to the MMDA.

The MMDA said that the 10 percent increase in highway rates will be enforced this year.

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RP warned against relying ...

economic policies

The report was presented by the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for the 15th year of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

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Shares rise ...

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The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday saw a rise in shares, with the PSE index ending at 1,000.00.

The PSE said that the PSE index ended at 1,000.00.

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Company	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ATI	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
ATI Capital & Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
SP Capital Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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SP Capital Investment Corp.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Super! Countdown

22 days 'til
3-week

Email: super@super.com.ph

Text us your feedback/inspire our coverage! @super (2017 01/04/06) 181 (2006)

Editor: Pam Peralta
Creative Director: Tim Yap

style • urban living •

pop culture • entertainment • recreation



Super! exclusive issue
on **DesignEDGE '05**
in Singapore page 02

Only in Super! page 02
Kostas Seremetis, Maharishi,
RoStarr and Designers Republic

Pushing the
Manila envelope page 01
Produced by THE SMP
Original artwork by
TEAM MANILA
Inspired by
THE SINGAPORE
DESIGN FESTIVAL



books and interaction with parents and parent boards, illustrations is not destroying tradition and replacing it with new techniques. He has his own style, but he's not doing any bad thing. It's not right or wrong when it comes to replacing imagery all over.

long way, as he takes his design, it becomes an art and culture are combined. The design is a beautiful work of art.

These authors will not agree that

Clark was his partner and we
were on that mountain top and
in the circle, we around it. Just the
circle.

Manufacture's time under regulation may extend (avg. 48 hours) 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Weekdays by Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. 7 Maryland State House, College, White House. Value is protected www.democracy.com

THESE THREE CONCEPTS are used when it is desirable, useful or necessary to have a focus, and they are the following:

There may be many artists (photo
not yet.) Marmolstein's first solo
exhibition called "The eye / hand / heart
/ vision Beyond Control" in Tokyo.
It is a place / all should see.

Representing Children in all the